



Members of the 150th Medical Squadron construct a medical facility in the field as part of Field Medical Unit Readiness Training (FMURT) requirement.

Medics train to deploy and operate

1Lt Bruce R. Hill, Jr.

Public Affairs, 150th FW

Medical Services Squadron members from the New Mexico Air National Guard attended a new form of medical training at the Alpena Air National Guard Training Base, June 1-7.

Expeditionary Medical Support (EMEDS), a new weeklong field-training exercise to Air Guard medical personnel, familiarized 40 members of the 150th MDS with updated and innovative techniques to field medical care.

EMEDS, also programmed to be an integral part of Homeland Security in the event of a stateside disaster, is designed to serve as a deployed, expandable medical treatment facility depending on size and scope of the disaster, said CMSgt Peter J. Braun, Health Services Manager for the 150th MDS. The Air National Guard will play a significant role in the operation of these systems.

"Field Medical Unit Readiness Training (FMURT) personnel based at Alpena provided the training," said Braun. "The new EMEDS training was quite realistic."

"We were out there, three days and nights in the field, with 24-hour operations near the end of the exercise," said Major Ronald W. Angst, Medical Readiness Officer for the 150th. "The training happened as it could in a real world deployment up to daily reveille and flag ceremonies."

Bioenvironmental and public health personnel performed area water tests, facility inspections, and conducted medical intelligence briefs and disease prevention meetings, said Angst. Information Management training for medical administration was also provided.

Medical personnel constructed Alaska shelters, which make up the specialized sections of the deployed medical

facilities, like Intensive Care, the Emergency Room, and medical ward, said Braun.



Flight surgeons mapping the site of a simulated aircraft crash site, from which two patients were retrieved. (Left to right) Lt. Col. (Dr.) Louis Perino, 150th MDS, Lt. Col. (Dr.) Robert Desko, 150th MDS, and Col. (Dr.) Peter Hochla, 944th MDS.

A mock city, built in 1999 by the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, was the site for patient retrieval, said Braun. "Patients were found scattered throughout the town, resulting from an explosion." The realism was critical to the medical training environment and was evidenced throughout the exercise.

Joined up by 51 personnel of the 106th MDS, Long Island, N.Y., medical personnel experienced the confidence chamber (tear gas), handled a C-130 aircraft crash investigation involving patient retrieval, and conducted other medical operations under a simulated attack. "We dealt with Alpena security

police acting as anti-American protestors, said Angst."

"One of our nurses was even nabbed outside by terrorists while on her way to the bathroom," said Braun. "While everyone worked, we heard her cries and pleas for help over a distant 'giant voice' public address system. It was very eerie. To further complicate things, radios were jammed by simulated terrorists trying to prevent communications between medical staff and security personnel."

Critical was the equipment, said Angst. "The human life simulators were very significant to the training. It was the first time our members have seen them (the new equipment). There were digital x-ray and anesthesia machines, new operating room equipment... Pretty high tech."

The EMEDS training, well planned and executed, according to Angst, is a medical requirement every four years.